

# WITNESS SAW HALL ON LAST TRYST

**Rector Hurrying To Fatal 'Date,' Court Is Told**

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ton Avenue, while on the way to the love tryst from which they were never to return.

Her testimony was corroborated by her sister, Mrs. Agnes Blust, who had accompanied her.

**Couple Slain First**

Dr. John F. Anderson, research chemist, said he had examined ground taken from under the bodies and that because of the amount of blood he found in the soil, he believed that both were killed beneath the crabapple tree and that Mrs. Mills's throat was cut about half an hour after the shootings.

John Bowers, former Somerset County prosecutor, succeeding the late Azariah Beekman, said he had received no evidence in the case from his predecessor.

Peter Tumulty, former Hall chauffeur-gardener, testified that certain garden implements, including a pair of heavy shears, were not missing, to his knowledge, after the crime. He named the autos owned by the Hall family.

**Heard Screams**

Harry J. McCabe, bridge-tender at Glandling Bridge over the Raritan, about six blocks from the murder scene, said he and his wife had heard screams, thus partially substantiating Mrs. Gibson.

He said he heard "moans and a cry—it was very pitiful—like a dying woman."

Among those present at the fourth day's session were Sydney and Edwin and Commander John Carpenter of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, all cousins of Henry Carpenter, Charlotte Mills, daughter of the slain choir singer, Ralph V. Gorsline, former intimate of the slain lovers, waiting to be called as a witness, and Mrs. Marie Lee, of Paterson, sister of Mrs. Mills.

**Frequent Clashes**

Simpson clashed with Timothy Pfeiffer and Robert H. McCarter, leading counsel of the Hall "million dollar defense," as frequently as in previous sessions.

The first witness was John I. Bowers, successor of Azariah Beekman as prosecutor of Somerset county, who testified that Beekman had not turned over to him any records, exhibits or statements in connection with the case.

Dr. A. F. Anderson, blood expert hired by the state, was the next witness. He testified that on October 2 the coroner turned over to him fifty-eight pounds of soil, taken from under the crabapple tree. He determined that the soil contained about eight-tenths of a pint of blood. Simpson questioned him.

**Throat Cut After**

Q. Did you reach the theory that the throat was cut after the person was shot? A. Yes.

Pfeiffer took the witness.

Q. How long after the person

## "Mrs. Mills Fought for Life"



THAT IS THE BELIEF of Dr. William H. Long, Somerset county physician, who testified that he thought Mrs. Mills had met her death fighting off her assailants, while the Rev. Hall was rushing to aid her. (Photo Graphic.)

was shot do you think the throat was cut? A. About a half hour later.

Mrs. Grace Edwards of Easton Avenue, 500 yards from the scene of the crime, was next. She told of calling police.

Edward Stryker, owner of the house near the Phillips farm, said he was not at home when the telephone call was made, but that when he returned, his niece, Mrs. Edwards, told him two bodies had been found near the crabapple tree. He went there.

**Under Sharp Fire**

Mrs. Harkins was subjected to sharp cross-examination. Senator Simpson questioned Mrs. Harkins.

Q. Where were you on the night

Q. You were in the choir of St. John's Church? A. Yes.

Q. Where did you meet Mrs. Mills? A. Near the vocational school.

Q. In what direction was she going? A. Toward De Russey's Lane.

Q. Did she speak to you? A. No. Q. Did you know her well enough to speak to? A. Yes.

**Met Rector**

Q. Did you see Dr. Hall? A. Yes.

Q. When did you see him? A. About fifteen minutes after I saw Mrs. Mills.

Q. Where did you see him? A. We saw him in the same place when we were coming back.

Q. Can you locate this place with relation to De Russey's Lane? A. It is about three-quarters of a mile away.

Q. Was Dr. Hall walking in the same direction as Mr. Mills? A. Yes.

Q. How was he walking? A. Very fast.

Q. Didn't he speak to you? A. No.

**Cross-Examined**

At this point Simpson gave the witness to Pfeiffer.

Q. What time was it when you saw Dr. Hall? A. It was about 8 o'clock. I looked at the clock on the vocational school.

Q. Was Mrs. Mills in a hurry? A. No.

Q. Did you see anything in Mrs. Mills's hand? A. She had



Rev. Hall



Mrs. Mills

of September 14, 1922? A. I went for a walk with my sister, Mrs. Blust.

Q. What time was that? A. About 7:30.

Q. What direction did you take? A. On Easton Avenue turnpike.

Q. In which direction did you walk? A. Toward De Russey's Lane.

Q. Did you go as far as De Russey's Lane? A. No.

Q. Can you tell about how far? A. About three-quarters of a mile.

Q. Did you see Mrs. Mills? A. Yes.

Q. Was Mrs. Mills in a hurry?

A. No.

Q. Did you see anything in Mrs. Mills's hand? A. She had



Judge Cleary Alexander Simpson  
one arm up and seemed to have something in it.

Q. Was it a small package? A. I think it was.

Q. Was it wrapped in brown paper? A. No.

Q. How large was it? A. I can't say.

**Insists "How Large"**

Pfeiffer reached down to the table and held aloft a bundle of foolscap.

Q. As large as that? A. I think it was about half as large as that.

Pfeiffer showed Mrs. Harkins a large gray envelope and asked whether the package carried by Mrs. Mills was of approximately that size. Mrs. Harkins said it was. However, on re-direct ex-

## New Hall Witness



MISS MARIE SMITH (above) is said by Robert Ehrling to have been with him in Lovers' Lane the night of the murder.

amination by Simpson, Mrs. Harkins admitted she was not positive Mrs. Mills was carrying a package.

**Backed by Sister**

Mrs. Agnes Blust, sister of Mrs. Harkins, told substantially the same story as Mrs. Harkins.

Peter Tumulty, gardener for the Hall family at the time of the murders and now working for Henry Carpenter, one of the defendants, was next called.

He was first employed by the Hall family four or five weeks before the murders. The family had a Dodge sedan and a Case car, he said. He could not remember whether the Dodge was in the garage when he reported for work at about 7:30 o'clock on the Friday morning after the murders.

He did not see any one wash either of the cars on that day, he said. He identified a pair of hedge clippers and a pair of pruning shears. He said he had not looked for these articles on



Mrs. Louise Richl Barbara Tough  
the morning after the murders, but believed they were in the Hall garage.

Bogart T. Conkling, who was sheriff of Somerset county when the murders occurred, testified that he accompanied Detective George Totten, Dr. A. L. Long and Detective Joseph Novatto to the murder scene shortly after discovery of the bodies. The clothes on both bodies were in "excellent condition," he said.

**Found Empty Shells**

He found empty shells on the ground between the bodies, and nearby he found a package of letters. He turned all these over to Detective Totten, he said.

McCabe was the next witness. He heard screams the night of the murder.

"How far were you from the scene of the crime?" Simpson asked. A. About four-tenths of a mile.

Q. Did you hear any shots that night? A. No.

Q. What did you hear? A. I was in bed at 11:30. My wife heard screams coming from the vicinity of the (Bucklech) park. She awakened me and I walked over in that direction. On my way out I stopped and I heard a second scream. I walked three or four minutes to the end of the bridge and I stopped. Some time later I heard what seemed like a loud scream. Then everything was quiet.

Q. What kind of a scream

## Mystery Woman Refutes Story Told by Ehrling

The story of Robert Ehrling, one of the most important links in the state's chain of evidence against Mrs. Frances S. Hall, Willie Stevens and Henry Carpenter in the Hall-Mills case, has been completely refuted by a woman who claims to have been with him on the night of the murder, it was learned today.

Ehrling declared a Miss Marie Smith, now married, was with him on the night of the slayings, but Mrs. Jennie Wahler, 22, of 108 Sanford Ave., New Brunswick, claims she is the woman who accompanied him. Mrs. Wahler's statement was taken on August 2 and sworn to before Walter J. Coughlin, a notary public.

In her statement, Mrs. Wahler says she was known as Jennie Lenford when she was single and that she accompanied Ehrling to the Phillips farm on the night of the murders. Contrary to Ehrling's story, Mrs. Wahler says they did not stop in Lovers' Lane, but passed through it twice, once at 10 p. m. and again at about 1 o'clock in the morning. She asserts that they did not stop once during the entire drive, except to get some ice cream at the drug store.

was it? A. At first it sounded like two women. It seemed like a scream of fear. The last one seemed to be a pitiful one.

Q. Was it a scream or a shriek? A. Shriek.

Q. Did it sound like some one dying? A. Yes.

Q. What time was it? A. It started about 10:20 standard time and lasted about twenty minutes.

Pfeiffer took the witness.

McCabe is hard of hearing, and he said the condition had existed only since April, 1923, which was subsequent to the murders. McCabe declared he walked about 500 or 600 yards from the bridge toward De Russey's Lane when he heard screams.

**Sure of Screams**

Q. Are you sure you heard two women scream? A. Yes.

Q. In what direction was it? In the direction of Phillips's farm? A. Not at first; but the second one—yes; and it seemed to be louder than the first.

Q. Did the last scream sound more like a moan to you? A. Yes, very pitiful.

Q. Was it loud? A. No, very low.

## Simpson Backed By Moore Letter

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by the fourteen trustees who passed the resolution.

"To my mind, the fair name of New Brunswick was more imperiled by the cessation of efforts to apprehend and bring the murderers to justice, rather than by the turning of the light of publicity upon the transaction and all the circumstances connected with it.

"The officers of the law who are seeking to bring the facts to light need and ought to have your support. I should point out to you that the action of your body might be construed by those who are quick to imagine that the rich and powerful are favored in the law, have some support for their belief.

"Establishment of the truth and the enforcement of the law is what the state seeks. Publicity incidental upon the efforts to accomplish these two objects can not be harmful to New Brunswick, and as long as I am satisfied, as I am, that a real effort is being made to apprehend the guilty parties, I propose to support Senator Simpson.

## Political Aspect in Hall Case Is Given by Legal Line-Up

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Aug. 18.—Strong political tone was given to the Hall-Mills case today with the announcement that State Senator Clarence E. Case had been engaged as associate counsel for Henry De La Bruyere Carpenter and Willie Stevens, accused of the double murder.

Senator Case, a leading lawyer, is a Republican and has been president of the State Senate. He was a passive candidate for the Republican gubernatorial nomination at the last primary election, but withdrew in favor of State Senator Arthur Whitney. It was rumored that Case had been promised support of the Republican organization next time in return for his withdrawal.

The fact that Senator Simpson is a Democrat, and has been mentioned as a possible candidate for his party's gubernatorial nomination to succeed Gov. A. Harry Moore led observers to attach political significance to entrance of Senator Case into the murder hearing.

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